
Executive Director's Report

May 2015

(covering time period of April 23 – May 20, 2015)

Conference Updates

Over the past month, I attended several events that promoted a common theme—the need to work collaboratively with community partners to bring about meaningful change. The common thread was the idea of *collective impact*. At the Westchester Children's Association's 2015 Advocacy Breakfast, Karen Pittman, Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and President of The Forum for Youth Investment, defined collective impact as the dynamic process of a group of actors from different sectors committing themselves to a shared agenda in order to solve a particular social problem. She highlighted how communities have incorporated collective impact to improve youth readiness skills that help individuals successfully transition into adulthood, college and/or careers.

Keynote speaker R. David Lankes at the Library Trustees Association (LTA) of New York State's annual Trustee Institute encouraged attendees to discover the possibilities that could be created when library staff and trustees focus their energies on community engagement beyond the library's walls. Dr. Lankes is a professor and Dean's Scholar for the New Librarianship at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies and director of the Information Institute of Syracuse. He emphasized that while it is often easy for library trustees and directors to get caught up in the day-to-day activities of running a library, true sustainability comes from community interactions that focus on building relationships that foster meaningful and personal interactions for today and tomorrow. The library's long range plan is an opportunity to engage the community in defining what community aspirations and goals are of the highest priority and build a network of partners and resources to attain these aspirations and goals.

Collective impact served as the central theme for the entire Not-For-Profit Leadership Summit XIII. Attendees were encouraged to identify common goals that could be used to foster greater collaboration between agencies and communities. The first guest speaker was Paul Schmitz, CEO of Leading Inside Out, and author of *Everyone Leads: Building Leadership from the Community Up*. Mr. Schmitz showcased how collective impact can particularly help individuals who feel disenfranchised or disconnected from their community and give them the potential and ability to become leaders working toward shared goals. The second speaker, Bob McKinnon, President and CEO of GALEWILL, talked about the public engagement campaigns that he and his colleagues co-created with others to address social change issues. Both speakers reflected on the importance of organizations such as public libraries that share the goals of providing safe spaces, information resources and services. Community engagement opportunities offer an important foundation for a healthy community.

The focus of the second I2NY Conference was on the assessment of existing, and recommendations for future, initiatives to rebuild, create or enhance the Information Infrastructure of New York State (I2NY). Each of the topics explored were built upon collective impact principles and demonstrated how libraries can and do have a strong role to play in helping communities to achieve their goals and aspirations. Here are some examples:

- Kerri Willette, Manager of the Empire State Digital Network (ESDN) provided an update on the Digital Public Library of America's (DPLA) harvesting of New York's digital collections including New York Heritage.
- Kathy Miller, Executive Director at the Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC), provided an update on the Library as Publisher initiative.
- Robert Drake, Technology Operations Manager at the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS), spoke about the possibilities of a state-wide union catalog and what that might look like.
- Micah May, Director of Business Development, New York Public Library (NYPL), provided an overview on NYPL's National Digital Platform initiative to support library e-content acquisition and distribution.
- Nate Hill, Assistant Director, Chattanooga Public Library (CPL) and the recently appointed Executive Director of the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO), provided a look at how CPL capitalized on the Open Data movement to engage its community, and in the process, redefined the library's role as a community change agent.

Public libraries have the inherent ability to serve as "builders" of the community that can lead changes. The American Library Association (ALA) has worked closely with Rich Harwood, President and Founder of The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, to create an initiative—Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) that seeks to strengthen librarians' roles as core community leaders and change-agents. Elena Falcone, WLS Director of Public Innovation and Engagement, has been trained in The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation's techniques and can serve as a resource for WLS member libraries interested in exploring this approach as part of their long-range planning and community engagement activities. More information about this initiative that promotes the use of collective impact can be found at [the ALA website](#).

Outreach to Local Colleges and Universities

WLS hosted a vendor table at the Westchester Library Association (WLA) Annual Conference on May 8th. During the event, I spoke with staff members from the College of New Rochelle and SUNY Purchase College and briefly explored ways that WLS and higher education systems could work together more effectively to promote student achievement and lifelong learning in Westchester. As a result, I attended a library staff event at the SUNY Purchase College Library on May 20th and was able to review the breadth of WLS e-resources currently available to the college's students, faculty and staff with valid borrowing cards from the member libraries. The Harrison Public Library and Purchase Free Library directors are in communication with the SUNY Purchase College Library; and it is exciting to see a stronger relationship growing between these three organizations.

Purchase Free Library

After a public vote held on April 29th to determine if the Purchase Free Library would remain in its existing location or be required to vacate the premise, the community voted wholeheartedly in favor of the library remaining in its existing location with a final vote of 1,385 to 768. The Purchase Community House will negotiate a lease that will allow the Purchase Free Library to remain in the Community House. Congratulations to all Purchase Free Library trustees, staff, friends and supporters who worked on the campaign to support the library.

Helping All Trustees Succeed in New York State (HATS) Survey

Through the New York State Library initiative [ILEAD USA](#), a project team known as Helping All Trustees Succeed (HATS) in New York State has been formed to explore a standardized trustee education framework. Part of their activities includes creation of a survey to gain a general understanding of trustees' understanding of board-related topics, preferences in receiving information and limitations in the area of trustee education. Input will help shape the next steps for the project. All public library trustees, directors and public library system staff involved with trustee education are invited to participate in the survey that can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/HATSsurvey>. Responses are due by Monday, June 15th; and all responses are anonymous.

The HATS team members include: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Sustainability at the Mid-Hudson Library System; Lisa Erickson, Communications, Advocacy and Outreach Librarian at the Nioga Library System; Jennifer Ferriss, Assistant Director at the Southern Adirondack Library System; Ron Kirsop, Assistant Director at the Pioneer Library System; Grace Riario, Assistant Director at the Ramapo Catskill Library System; and Amanda Travis, Member Library Liaison at the Onondaga County Public Library. The team is working in concert with LTA; NYS Division of Library Development (DLD); Public Library Systems Directors Organization (PULISDO); and New York Library Association (NYLA). For further information about the HATS project, team or survey, please contact Rebekkah Smith Aldrich at rsmith@midhudson.org.

Upcoming Trustee Events

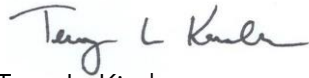
Our own trustee training continues on June 3rd at 6 p.m. at the Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Road, Elmsford, NY, with *Everything you always wanted to know about Open Meetings Law (but were afraid to ask)*. Robert J. (Bob) Freeman, Executive Director of the New York State Committee on Open Government, will review Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Laws. Please bring your questions.

Tarrytown architect Raymond Beeler, principal at Gallin Beeler Design Studio, and Judith Lockman, Public Library Consultant, will present *Renovation or New Construction? Lessons from the Field on making the Right Decision?* on June 24th at 6 p.m. at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY. Actual projects will showcase strategies for successful project management and effective communications with stakeholders. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Elise Burke (914-231-3225; eburke@wlsmail.org) or register via the [WLS Evanced Calendar](#).

Future Events

- June 3 WLS Trustee Institute: *Everything you always wanted to know about Open Meetings Law* * - Greenburgh Public Library
- June 24 WLS Trustee Institute: *Renovation or New Construction? Lessons from the Field on making the Right Decision?* - Dobbs Ferry Public Library
- June 26-29 American Library Association (ALA) Conference – San Francisco, CA

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director

LIST OF VISITS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED

April 23 – May 20, 2015

APRIL

- 23 SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call
Chris Hansen, WLS President, and Dave Donelson, WLS Trustee
Jones Lange Lasalle (JLL) Conference Call
Webinar: *Online Tools to Help Nonprofits Learn, Listen & Engage*
- 24 Maureen Sullivan, Maureen Sullivan Associates
- 27 New York State Librarian Bernie Margolis Conference Call re e-Rate; Rob Caluori, WLS
Director of IT
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 28 Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology (IT)
NonProfit Westchester (NPW) Conference Call
WLS Executive Board Meeting
WLS Board Meeting
- 29 Westchester Children's Association 2015 Advocacy Breakfast, Tarrytown
Pat Braja, Director of Development
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
- 30 35th Annual Volunteer Spirit Awards, Tarrytown
SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement (PIE)

MAY

- 1-2 Library Trustees Association of New York State (LTA) Trustee Institute – Syracuse, NY
- 4 Not-for-Profit Leadership Summit, Tarrytown
- 5 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant; Rob Caluori, Director of IT; Fran Feuerman, Chief Financial
Officer, re potential leasing sites
- 6 NPW Board Meeting
Pat Braja, Director of Development
Technology Trainer Interview
Ayesha Khan, Director of Program, Food Bank for Westchester, Elmsford
Ossining Public Library Board Meeting
- 7 Get the YES Vote Out: Tips & Trends from Around the Country, Mid-Hudson Library System,
Poughkeepsie
Tom Sloan, Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System
- 8 Westchester Library Association Conference – Hilton Doubletree, Tarrytown
- 11-12 I2NY Conference – Gideon Putnam Hotel, Saratoga Springs
Jeff Cannell, NYS Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education; Tim Burke, Executive
Director, Upper Hudson Library System
- 13 Pat Braja, Director of Development
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
Westchester Seniors Out Speaking (WSOS) Volunteer Recognition Lunch, Crabtree Kittle House
- 14 Chris Hansen, WLS President
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement (PIE)
- 15 Business Council of Westchester (BCW) Government Action Committee: Guests Westchester
County Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz and Vice Chairman James
Maisano, Rye Brook
Task Force on Families Meeting
- 18 PLDA Finance Committee

MAY (continued)

- 19 Agility Overview
 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
 BCW Grand Opening, Rye Brook
- 20 NovelList Training
 Pat Braja, Director of Development
 Presentation of WLS e-Resources, Purchase College